



U.S. Department of Justice

**Craig S. Morford
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758

November 29, 2004

Event: Indictment

Defendants: Walter Ralph Mabry, 59, Gross Pointe Park, Michigan

Anthony Michael, 62, Macomb, Michigan

Date: November 29, 2004

Two union officers (one current and one former) from southeastern Michigan have been indicted by a federal grand jury in Detroit on charges of conspiring to solicit and receive prohibited payments in the form of discounts from a number of construction companies whose employees were represented, or would have been admitted to membership in, the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters, a labor organization based in Detroit, United States Attorney Craig S. Morford announced today.

The indictment, which was returned by the grand jury on Monday, also charged both defendants in a separate count with the actual solicitation and receipt of a prohibited payment (discount) from one of the companies, the Nelson-Mill Company, said Morford, who was joined in the announcement by Daniel D. Roberts, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation and J.D. Nichols, Special Agent in Charge, Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General.

Named in the two-count indictment were:

1. Walter Ralph Mabry, 59, of Grosse Pointe Park, employed as the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters ("MRCC") at the time of the offense; and

2. Anthony Michael, 62, of Macomb, employed as the President and Executive Director of the MRCC at the time of the offense;

Both were charged with soliciting and receiving a prohibited payment, in violation of the Taft-Hartley Act, Title 29, United States Code, Sections 186 (b)(1) and (d)(2), and conspiracy to do so, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

According to the indictment, between approximately January 1998 and December 1999, Mabry and Michael, using their union positions, conspired to solicit and obtain extraordinary discounts (that is, discounts beyond those typically given to customers) on building materials, labor, and related costs, from a number of area construction companies whose employees were members of the union, in order to reduce the cost to Mabry of constructing a new personal residence in Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Labor Office of Inspector General with the assistance of the Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA).

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

